

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: FAO PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES

REF: ROME 6341

1. FODAG HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S NOTE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ON THE FAO ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES DATED APRIL 14, 1978. NOTE ENCLOSURES THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES PROVIDING DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED TO FAO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS UNDER THIS NEW ACTION PROGRAM. NOTE CLOSES BY SAYING BEGIN QUOTE: THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBER NATIONS IN THIS ACTION PROGRAM, AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM INDIVIDUAL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR EMBARKING, AS REQUIRED, ON INTENSIVE ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE PREVENTION OF FOOD LOSSES. END QUOTE

2. IN THE GUIDELINES, PREVIOUSLY POUCHED TO WASHINGTON, THE PFL PROGRAM IS DESCRIBED BEGIN QUOTE ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT FROM THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT WILL BE ABOUT US DOL. 10 MILLION AND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS WILL BE MADE UP OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AS LAID DOWN IN THE RESOLUTION 3/77 OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE. END QUOTE PRIORITY IN ITS INITIAL PHASE WILL CONCENTRATE ON REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES OF STABLE FOODS. SECONDLY, PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES, AND WITHIN THESE COUNTRIES TO ACTIONS WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE

RURAL POOR.

3. THE GUIDELINES CONTINUE BEGIN QUOTE DIRECT ACTION TO REDUCE LOSSES CAN TAKE PLACE ONLY WITHIN COUNTRIES AS PART OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR FOOD LOSS REDUCTION. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE FUNDS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT ALL NATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL HAVE TO BE MOBILIZED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS THROUGH ASSISTANCE FROM MULTI-LATERAL AND BILATERAL AGENCIES AND WILL AMOUNT TO SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. THE ACTION PROGRAM BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE FAO WILL BE MADE UP OF SELECTED NATIONAL PROJECTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TYPICAL OF THE ACTIONS COUNTRIES WILL WISH TO TAKE AND FOR WHICH EXTERNAL FUNDING WILL BE REQUIRED AND JUSTIFIED. THE PROJECTS AND THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH THEM WILL THEREFORE ACT AS MODELS TO BE EXPANDED OR REPEATED ELSE-

WHERE IN THE COUNTRY ITSELF OR IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE SIMILAR PROBLEMS EXIST. ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FAO FOOD LOSS PREVENTION PROGRAM WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF GRANTS. END QUOTE

4. THE ELEMENTS OF THE ACTION PROGRAM ARE:

- (A) FOOD LOSS ASSESSMENT SURVEYS.
 - (B) PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT LOSSES AT VARIOUS STAGES IN THE POST-HARVEST FOOD SYSTEMS.
 - (C) TRAINING.
 - (D) NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR FOOD LOSS REDUCTION PROGRAMS.
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(E) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS.

5. CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECTS ARE BEGIN QUOTE:

- THE PROJECT SHOULD HAVE HIGH PRIORITY IN A COUNTRY'S PROGRAM FOR FOOD LOSS REDUCTION;
- THE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED SHOULD HAVE DIRECT IMPACT IN REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES OF STAPLE FOODS;
- PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED, MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND THE FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES;
- THE MAIN PROJECT ACTION SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1-1/2-2 YEARS;
- TRAINING PROGRAMS SHOULD BE OF SHORT DURATION, CONDUCTED WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND DIRECTED TOWARDS FARMERS, STOREKEEPERS, AND OPERATING STAFF;
- FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED SHOULD BE SIMPLE TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE AND BE IF APPROPRIATE DESIGN AND MATERIALS FOR THE COUNTRY CONCERNED;
- COUNTRY TO PROVIDE COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF PROJECTS;
- PROJECTS IN PILOT AREAS SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF EXPANSION, TO ATTRACT FURTHER INVESTMENT;
- ALL PROJECTS SHOULD INCLUDE LOSS ASSESSMENT, IN ORDER TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF LOSS REDUCTION.

6. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PFL PROGRAM SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FAO DG THROUGH THE FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL KEEP THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED. AT FAO HEADQUARTERS A CENTRAL UNIT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION WILL BE ESTABLISHED.GARDNER

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